

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-70 (canceled)

Claim 71 (new): A transgenic plant comprising a recombinant polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein expression of the polypeptide in the transgenic plant confers to the transgenic plant greater tolerance to water deprivation as compared to a control plant.

Claim 72 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 71, wherein the polypeptide is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 73 (new): The transgenic plant of claim 71, wherein the polypeptide is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 74 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 75 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 76 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the transgenic plant is more likely to have survived seven to eight days of a drought treatment, rewatering, and two to three days of a recovery period than the control plant.

Claim 77 (new): The transgenic plant of Claim 71, wherein the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a constitutive, inducible, or tissue-specific promoter that regulates expression of the polypeptide.

Claim 78 (new): A transgenic seed produced from the transgenic plant of Claim 71.